



Head's Blog

GCSE Grammar in Primary Schools?

Below are the grammatical terms primary teachers have to teach their pupils. The curriculum states, 'Explicit knowledge of grammar is very important, as it gives us more conscious control and choice in our language. Building this knowledge is best achieved through a focus on grammar within the teaching of reading, writing and speaking. Once pupils are familiar with a grammatical concept (for example 'modal verb)', they should be encouraged to apply and explore this concept in the grammar of their own speech and writing and to note where it is used by others.'

Pupils are required to sit a grammar test as part of their SATs, where they must demonstrate their understanding of the grammatical terminology they have been taught. Do they really need to know all of the terminology though at this age? Do Secondary students learn or revise these terms? Do GCSE students need to be able to explain the terms?

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Key Stage One: 5-7 years old	Lower Key Stage Two: 7-9 years old	Upper Key Stage Two: 9-11 years old
Letter	Consonant	Relative clauses
Capital letter	Vowel	Model verbs
Word	Conjunctions	Verb prefixes
Singular	Prepositions	Brackets
Plural	Adverbs	Dashes
Sentence	Paragraphs	Parenthesis
Punctuation	Pronoun	Relative pronoun
Full stop	Possessive pronoun	Ambiguity
Question mark	Adverbial	Informal speech
Exclamation mark	Cohesion	Formal speech
Plural noun suffixes	Headings	Synonyms
Clauses	Subheadings	Antonyms
Verbs	Present perfect verbs	Passive
Adjectives	Simple past	Cohesive devices
Personal pronoun	Inverted commas	Subjunctive forms
Subordination	Direct speech	Ellipsis
Co-ordination	Word family	Columns
Adverbs	Prefix	Bullet points
Expanded noun phrases	Clause	Semi colon
Statement	Subordinate clause	Colon
Question	Plural possession	Independent clause
Command	Possessive	Subject
Present tense	Plural	Active
Past tense	Adjectives	
Progressive verb tense	Verb inflections	
Commas	Noun phrases	
Apostrophe	Fronted adverbials	
Singular possession	Determiner	
Compound		

Is the primary grammar curriculum appropriate?

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